

Appl. No. 10/765,808  
Amdt. Dated 07/31/2009  
Response to Office Action of 06/03/2009

Attorney Docket No.: N1085-00256  
[TSMC2003-0899]

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A plasma etching apparatus comprising a chuck adapted to  
2 retain a substrate thereover and hardware that is formed of a material that includes  
3 oxygen impregnated therein such that said oxygen is released when an etching  
4 operation is carried out, wherein said hardware comprises a focus ring maintained at a  
5 temperature less than a temperature of said substrate while an etching operation is  
6 carried out upon said substrate, and at least only a single portion of said focus ring  
7 extending inwardly, said single portion extending substantially continuously extends  
8 directly underneath a peripheral portion of said chuck that extends directly underneath a  
9 peripheral portion of said substrate.

1 2. (Previously Presented). The plasma etching apparatus as in claim 1, wherein  
2 said chuck is substantially circular and said focus ring peripherally surrounds said  
3 chuck.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said  
2 focus ring comprises a lower focus ring and further comprising an upper focus ring, at  
3 least a portion of said lower focus ring substantially continuously extending below a  
4 peripheral portion of said chuck.

1 4. (Original) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said chuck  
2 comprises an electrostatic chuck.

1 5. (Original) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said hardware  
2 comprises a focus ring composed primarily of quartz.

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- 1 6. (Original) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said hardware  
2 comprises a focus ring formed of a ceramic.
- 1 7. (Cancelled).
- 1 8. (Cancelled).
- 1 9. (Cancelled).
- 1 10. (Currently Amended) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim [[9]] 1, wherein  
2 said chuck comprises an electrostatic chuck and said substrate comprises a  
3 semiconductor substrate.
- 1 11. (Currently Amended) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim [[9]] 1, wherein  
2 said chuck comprises an electrostatic chuck and said focus ring maintains contact with  
3 said electrostatic chuck and said electrostatic chuck is cooled during said etching  
4 operation.
- 1 12. (Currently Amended) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim 11, wherein said  
2 focus ring is disposed peripherally around said substrate and ~~includes a~~ said single  
3 ~~portion that~~ rests on an annular landing section of said electrostatic chuck.
- 1 13-28. (Cancelled)
- 1 29. (Cancelled)
- 1 30. (Cancelled)
- 1 31. (Currently Amended) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim [[30]] 1, wherein  
2 said chuck comprises an electrostatic chuck.

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1 32. (Currently Amended) The plasma etching apparatus as in claim [[31]] 1, wherein  
2 said chuck is disposed within an etching chamber and further comprising said etching  
3 chamber containing therein further hardware formed of said material that includes  
4 oxygen-impregnated ~~material~~ therein.

1 33. (Cancelled)